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FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

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PRESS RELEASE

The Information Bureau of FRETILIN, manifests its apprehension about the manipulation that the Indonesian government, simultaneously with the apostolic nuncio in Jakarta is doing about the expected Pope's visit to East Timor.

According to the pastoral letter of April 15, of the apostolic administrator, D.Felipe X.Belo, the Pope's visit will have the following program:

Arrival at Dili on October 12 of the current year, where a religious ceremony will be celebrated in Indonesia language.

Our apprehension reside in the formal acts that will make the world understand the recognition of the occupation and genocide practised by Indonesia in East Timor, by the Vatican, namely:

1. The itinerary of the visit: Indonesia-Timor-Indonesia.
2. The refusal of using Tetum language during the religious ceremony celebrated by the Pope in East Timor, whose liturgy was already approved by the Vatican, while the liturgy in Indonesia language was merely approved "ad experimentum".
3. The choice of Taci Tolu and not other places suggested by the local clergy, with the pretext of being able to hold about one hundred thousand (according to the refered pastoral letter) with the following reazons:

a. Taci Tolu has been a torture place, terror, death of tens of thousands Timorese and were are now concen-

are now concentrated the intimidatory presence of many Indonesian batallions.

b.Taci Tolu, place of three lakes, whose waters became often red with the blood of Timorese murdered mercilessly by the Indonesian troops.

The Information Bureau of FRETILIN denounces the pressures exercised by the Indonesian authorities on the apostolic administrator,D.Felipe X.Belo because he has recently manifested his support to the right to selfdetermination of the people of East Timor.

The Pope as bishop of Dili diocese (ref.to the pastoral letter,April 15) is welcome to his diocese, but not in the conditions where his visit is organized and that doesn't have the agreement of the local clergy and Timorese Christianity.

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